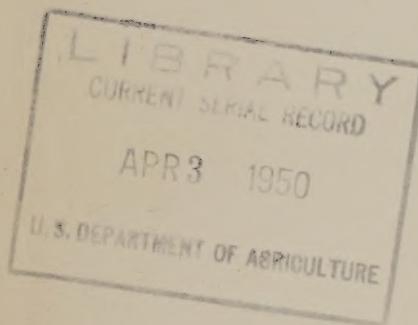


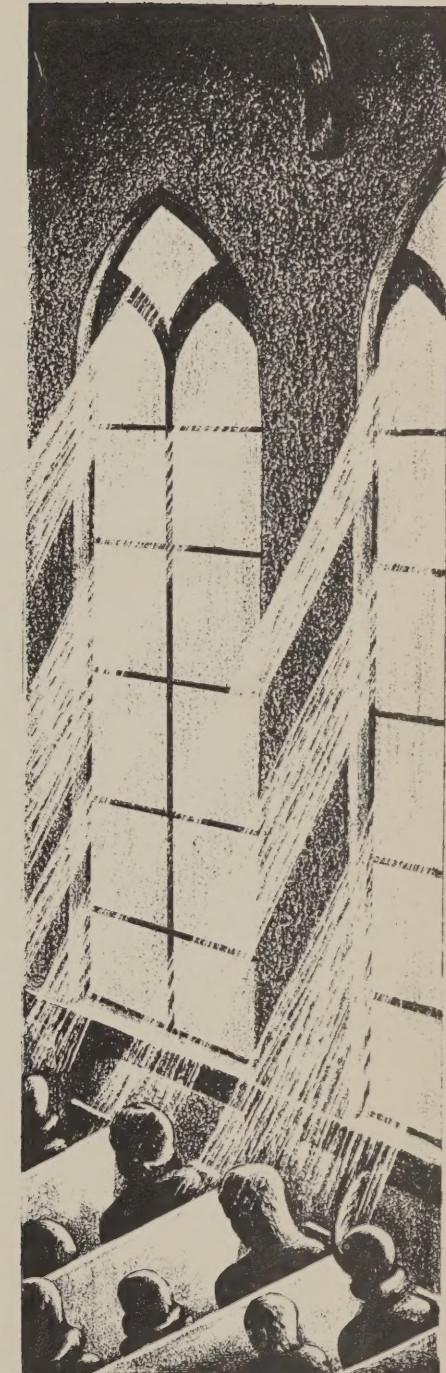
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OBSERVANCE OF
**Rural Life
Sunday**

BY 4-H CLUBS
1950



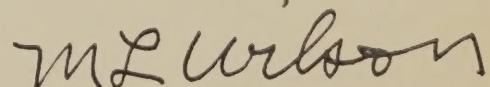
*Theme: Better Living for
a Better World.*



EXTENSION SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, COOPERATING

FOREWORD

As we prepare again for the observance of our annual 4-H Club Sunday, we have a wealth of inspiring literature and expressions of faith upon which to draw. It is true, too, that we all, leaders, parents, and 4-H members, face a challenging responsibility which demands that we not only observe 4-H Sunday in a fitting manner, but that we continue throughout the year to demonstrate the fine principles we affirm on that day. Let us on this day rededicate ourselves to the true principles which are so much a part of our cultural heritage, the principles of love, tolerance, truth, justice, freedom, loyalty. Let us, throughout the year, be guided by adherence in practice to the principle, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." I earnestly believe that the extent to which Christian civilization as we know it will survive in the world of tomorrow will depend on how deeply all of us in the Western World believe and live up to these principles.



Director of Extension Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

May - 1950

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization of 4-H Club Work

THEME: BETTER LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD

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BUILDING A NEW WORLD

Together we build . . .
Together, bit by bit, we build a
new world
Not a new world
The same old world
with ugly barriers blocked out
With sunlight let in
A world of joy and understanding
and comradeship . . .
A world that belongs to all of us.

--Howard Braucher

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION

In the further spiritual development of the Nation we may well begin with rural people who work close with God in the growing of plants and animals; who hear His voice in the winds, the storm, the song of birds, the rustling of growing corn, the silence of the night; and see Him in the beauty of morning and evening sun, the wild rose, the spider's web.

Rural youth who want to build real homes, raise up godly children, and help build a righteous Nation may well be the right hand of the church in carrying forward this spiritual work.

--Dr. C. B. Smith.

FAITH

If people have faith that God is working in His world, faith that our human struggle has eternal meaning and the soul of men intrinsic worth, faith that beyond this trouble of breath there is ampler life, men can truly live. They can live together then, for then they are one in worthiest manhood; and they can live with God.

--Dr. George A. Buttrick.

PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE
OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about home, community, and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Better Living for a Better World."

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual value and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.

Helps 4-H members to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

A FAITH TO LIVE FOR

The words and the spirit of Holy Scripture breathe through every document that has made our Nation great. ***

Loyalty and patriotism to country receive a strength and permanence that come only from God. ***

The statesmen of a nation grounded in religious faith will exercise tireless patience to maintain an enduring peace for peoples everywhere.

--Tom C. Clark.

ORIGIN OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, or Rural Life Sunday, is observed by church organizations throughout the Nation to emphasize the meaning of Christianity in rural life. It occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter and is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the 3 days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to A.D. 475. In A.D. 511 they were ordered observed throughout France; and in A.D. 747 were established in England by church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.

The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting was widely observed. Hardly an ancient people but sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When therefore, 4-H members assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted also that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

Words cannot express what our Nation owes to its churches, great and small, city and country, which, in spite of unhappy divisions, have lifted from the beginning the conception of one world and one world-wide brotherhood of all humanity.

--Rev. Frederick Brown Harris,
D.D., Litt. D.

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives, and thus they can be helped "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhang the world.

THE COUNTRY CHURCH

When country church bells stop ringing, religion will disappear from the face of the earth. Spiritual growth is essential because when spiritual growth and development stop in an individual, other growth is abnormal. Just as the business world depends upon rural life for its strength, growth, vitality, and replacements, the city church looks to the rural church for its leadership. In these days of stress nothing could be of more importance or greater value to our rural people than a greater appreciation of the rural church and its influence on community development and rural life.

--L. R. Harrill
State 4-H Club Leader,
North Carolina

LEADERSHIP

We are all blind until we see
That in the human plan
Nothing is worth the making
If it does not make the man.

Why build these cities glorious,
If man unbuilded goes?
In vain we build the world, unless
The builder also grows.

--Edwin Markham

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN
CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministerial associations, other ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day.

The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible. Select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this manual.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club Committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, certain features that highlight the theme for the year may be dramatized.

OTHER WAYS OF 4-H PARTICIPATION

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, and scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate.

A 4-H SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Suggested by 4-H Club Staff of New Mexico

(Select someone who can make this part of the program as sacred and reverent as possible.)

Reading: In Genesis we find "I will make of thee a great nation. In thee shall all the peoples of the earth be blest."

This was the Scripture read by Rev. John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrim Church at Leyden, Holland, as the Pilgrims embarked in 1620. Even after half of them were dead during the first terrible winter in Plymouth, they dared to have dauntless faith in the promise of national greatness and world blessing.

The new nation on the new continent today finds those prophecies fulfilled in incredible and lavish possessions and power.

Let us now rededicate ourselves to the building of a Christian nation.

Invocation: Our Father, we praise Thee for all Thou hast done for us as a nation. It is through Thy goodness that ours is "A land of the free and a home of the brave" and it will be through our allegiance to Thee that we shall receive power and wisdom for its preservation. Invoke anew Thy blessings upon our President, the officials of our Government, and the citizens of our land. Enable us to take our place among the nations of the world in a spirit of humbleness rather than pride, with a desire to help more than to be helped, with righteousness and sobriety unmistakably present at all times and the love of truth flourishing in our hearts. In His name we ask it. Amen.

Salute to the Flags:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

Reading: We conserve democracy by establishing it upon an enduring foundation. Democracy is founded upon voluntary cooperation and not upon force. Voluntary cooperation is based upon Christian ideals and principles--love, fellowship, consideration of others.

Christianity has existed under all forms of government. Democracy has never existed for long except where the Christian religion was infused into the thinking and living of its people.

Singing: America.

Reading: American citizens need an inner guiding light. God can put that light into our hearts. The ancient sailboats followed the stars, but they could not venture far from shore. Man discovered the mariner's compass, and ships were thereafter guided by an instrument within. They were able to sail across the ocean and discover new country. Our Nation needs not the outward signs to chart our course. We need the inner spirit of the living God dwelling in our hearts.

Poem From the Ship of State.....Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thou, too, sail on, O ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all its hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock,
'Tis but the flappings of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith, triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, -- are all with thee!

THOUGHTS IN RELATION TO THE THEME FOR USE IN
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

Better Living for a Better World

THE FOUR-SQUARE LIFE

The young person who learns to express creatively the dreams of his life is better equipped to withstand the buffeting of pessimism, doubt, and despair in the world of his elders. This is why I feel the 4-H Clubs have something constructive to offer youth, which should be encouraged. Listen to their pledge: "I pledge: my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, and my country." Certainly this is a worthy dream, deserving of sincere efforts to achieve it. And if it is followed through to that which it states and also to that which it suggests, it leads to the Christian religion.

Consider the closeness of the parallel of this pledge to the statement in Luke's gospel describing the youthful years of Jesus: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

And Jesus increased in wisdom, parallels, I pledge my head to clear thinking; and in stature, parallels, I pledge my health to better living; and in favor with God, parallels, I pledge my heart to greater loyalty; and man, parallels, I pledge my hands to larger service. This is the Four-Square Life. The parallel is perfect, as far as it goes. That is why I said the 4-H Club pledge should be carried out, not only in what it says, but in what it suggests.

--Rev. Carl W. Saunders,
Oak Bluffs, Mass.

NEED FOR KNOWING MORE ABOUT LIVING

Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have too many men of science, too few men of God.

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount...The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants... We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

--Gen. Omar Bradley.

MEANING OF 4-H TO THE CLUB MEMBER

4-H is more than a symbol, more than a word, more than an idea. It is You and 2,000,000 more like you who are club members on farms, in villages, and in small towns all over America.

It is doing something;
It is being somebody;
It is a way of life.

It is you, feeding your chickens every morning, even when the temperature is 'way below freezing.

It is you, presiding at a club meeting, with dignity and with all the "know-how" of the Speaker of the House.

It is you, swimming and diving and learning water safety with other boys and girls at camp.

It is you, learning to drink and like milk, because you know that a healthy body needs it.

It is you, singing at your work, because you've learned happiness.

It is you, poised and confident, demonstrating to others how to set a table correctly and attractively.

It is you, giving reverent thanks for life and liberty and peace.

4-H Club work is you, a club member, making your best better.

--Werneth Wilson
Former 4-H member,
West Virginia

SPIRITUAL VALUES IN 4-H CLUB WORK

We are glad to see increasingly coming into 4-H Club work a quality of spirituality that is worth while. In a recent camp, following a day of rich experiences, the whole group climbed to the top of a commanding hill for vespers. To sit on a hilltop with others in silence and meditation as the sun goes down and the evening shadows lengthen, to think together on things clean and worthy, to direct the mind away from material to more spiritual things, to commune with the soul--all are cultured things that help lift the mind up into the realm of the Creator and constitute a steady, worthwhile influence in the midst of a very busy and often jazzy world. 4-H Club work may well include something of these spiritual matters that seek to develop the best in man.

--Dr. C. B. Smith.

GUIDEPOST FOR HUMAN CONDUCT

" . . . what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly,
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

These three simple phrases set up an indestructible guidepost for human conduct. In clear and simple words they establish the essentials of decency. All are of the spirit -- justice, mercy, humility.

The prophet's words are for the individual. "What," he says, "is required of thee?" the individual? Their importance lies in the much-neglected fact that nations are but the sum total of all the people.

No nation grows in greatness save through the wisdom, the determination, and the vision of individuals. Each victory of man over the tyranny of absolute authority in government is the triumph of leaders who know justice, are merciful, and are humble before God.

Today the conflict between freedom for the individual and rigid authority for the state is in eruption throughout the world. Peoples who had struggled for generations to gain precious liberties are thrust back into the darkness of materialism and oppression. At every hand the way of the democracies is challenged by fresh aggressions upon the human spirit.

Sometimes these present problems seem beyond the power of any single man to cure. Yet if each follows the simple truths of the prophet, we can all influence the outcome. It is for us, who rejoice in the blessings of freedom, so to live our lives that, as a nation, we are an example to the world. We can then restore peace and dignity to mankind.

--J. Edgar Hoover.

I press God's lamp close to my heart;

Its splendor, soon or late, will pierce

the gloom: I shall emerge some day.

--Robert Browning.

CREED FOR LIVING

To cultivate international understanding and friendship; to create appreciation of talents and achievements of the people in all countries; to study their varied contributions to culture, and to the beauty and wealth of One World. To maintain the highest ideals of home life; to share growing knowledge of homemaking at its best; to place service above comfort; to let loyalty to high purposes silence discordant notes; to be discouraged, never; to let international neighbourliness supplant hatreds. To so guide children that their minds may be clear, their spirits happy, their characters generous, and their good will so genuine that peace on earth, for which the people yearn, will come to pass. To pledge allegiance to righteousness in relations between countries; and to help build a better civilization, through fidelity to the United Nations, with abiding faith in its promise of more abundant life for the family of Nations.

--New York Home Bureau Creed
Dr. Ruby Green Smith

TREASURES ON EARTH

A curve in the road and a hillside clear cut against the sky,
A tall tree tossed by autumn wind and a white cloud riding high.
Ten men went along that road and all but one passed by.

He saw the hill and the tree and the cloud with an artist's
mind and eye.
He put them down on canvas for the other nine men to buy.

--Farrand

Once there was a man who wanted very much to go to Heaven. When he died an angel took him by the hand and led him to wonderful places.

He saw majestic mountains lifting their lofty peaks into the blue sky. He walked through mighty forests where spirelike trees raised their heads above the green meadows far below, and through whose branches the wind played enchanting melodies. He beheld great rivers winding their courses to the seas, fed by brooks and streams from the secret places of the land. Fragrant flowers lifted their faces everywhere. The wild things played unafraid upon the mountainside and in the valleys. Happy children laughed and shouted along the way. Everywhere there was joy, peace, serenity. The man feasted his weary soul on these scenes as the angel led him. He said:

"Ah, this is Heaven, indeed! How magnificent it is!"

And the angel replied: "No, this is the world in which you lived, and which you never saw."

--Anonymous.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF DAILY LIVING

1. Cultivate self-control and develop will power and determination.
2. Develop a tolerance of other people and their opinions and activities.
3. Develop a proper respect for the truth and the facts.
4. Keep promises and commitments.
5. Be willing to work and realize that work is a part of life.
6. Realize the importance of maintaining your morale and of making the best of things, of pushing ahead with the adventure of life in spite of upset plans and temporary disappointments.

--C. E. Wilson

A CHALLENGE!

He who has done nothing has known nothing. Vain is it to sit scheming and plausibly discussing; up and be doing! If thy knowledge be real, put it forth from thee; grapple with real nature; try thy theories there and see how they hold out. Do one thing; for the first time in thy life do a thing; a new light will rise on thee on the doing of all things whatsoever. Truly, a boundless significance lies in work, whereby the humblest craftsman comes to attain much which is of indispensable use, but which he who is of no craft, were he never so high, runs the risk of missing.

--Thomas Carlyle

MORAL REGENERATION

EXCEPT in a moral regeneration throughout the world there is no hope for us and we are all going to disappear one day in the dust of an atomic explosion, however much we support all of the more formalistic approaches to international peace ... We must do all that we can toward progressive disarmament, for which I think we should all pray very sincerely. There must go hand in hand a mutual tolerance and understanding, a sympathy for the other fellow's point of view. In short, that training of our own minds which is certainly implicit in the Christian religion.

I believe in organization just as much as I believe in the moral regeneration of this world, and through the church there is the opportunity for organizing these moral forces so as to bring them forcefully to the world and to realize real progress.

--Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

POWER OF RELIGION

It is not science, but religion with its spiritual, ethical, and philosophical qualities, capable of putting the mechanics of science to its proper use for human society in accordance with equity, justice and charity, that have advanced man to the status that he has reached at this time.

--The Most Reverend Peter W. Partholome.

ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD LEADER

A leader should have a definite philosophy of life. Life is not a problem; it is a task to be lived. To do it successfully means a solution of all the elements of life. The 4-H Club leader must have definite standards of living, and he will soon be known by those standards. If he is going to lead successfully his standards of living must be those acceptable to those with whom he works. If he is to be entrusted with the 4-H boys' and girls' club work it must be known his standards of living are going to contribute to the character and upbuilding of those young people.

--A. E. Bowman

IT'S YOUR WORLD

"We have received the world as an inheritance. None of us has a right to damage it -- and everyone has the duty to leave it in an improved condition.

--Adapted from Joseph Joubert.

The work of Joseph Joubert, the French philosopher and moralist, is little known today, and yet I think he has a great deal to say to us.

His world, of the early nineteenth century, was similar in many respects to ours: a world devastated by war and confused by the political struggles and wrangles of the war's aftermath -- a world for which one could hardly be expected to give thanks.

But Joubert knew a greater truth: no matter how sorry its surface appearance, the world and our life on it is a precious gift; and if we find much in it to sadden us, the fault in a measure belongs to each one of us.

Only by attention to each detail, no matter how humble, of our daily lives and our relations with our neighbors, can we treat this great inheritance as it should be treated, and thus leave behind not a damaged but "an improved condition" of things.

--Mary Pickford.

INSPIRATION FOR LIVING

Life is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two, and then comes night;

Greatly begin! Tho thou hast time
But for a line, be that sublime!
Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

--James Russell Lowell.

OPPORTUNITY TO BE CHANGED

Not until The Spirit had come upon the disciples in power were they changed, so that cowardice gave place to courage, unbelief became a flaming faith and conviction that nothing on earth could shake, jealousy was swallowed up in brotherly love, self-interest was killed and became a ministry to others, fear was banished, and they were afraid of no man ... no threat, no danger.

We have the same opportunity to be changed, because the same Holy Spirit is available to us today.

He has been sent into the world to lead us into all truth, to convict us of sin, to be our Helper, our Guide.

God hasn't given up on you. He can still do great things for you, in you, and through you. God is ready and waiting and able. Do not despair. If you want to be different, you may. You, too, can be changed for the better. Therein lies our hope--and the hope of the world. We are disciples in clay. And there is still the skill of the Potter.

--Rev. Peter Marshall.

A SPIRITUAL ALLIANCE

If we are to forge a spiritual alliance between men of all nations, we must become a mighty fortress for righteousness as a people. It is well to recall that as a people we act only by the group will of our individual citizens. No wall is stronger than its weakest stones. Only as we strengthen ourselves spiritually can we exert our group will in the interests of charity, tolerance, and enduring righteousness.

--Ruth Kerr.

PEACE OF MIND

I am learning that every individual has his own place to fill.

No one can ever taken the place of another.

When we are willing to make our contribution without comparisons, without rivalry, we find a measure of peace.

When we are willing to grant our neighbor the same freedom of working out his own salvation without criticizing him or trying to mold him into our pattern, we are giving him a measure of love and finding peace ourselves from meddlesomeness and false responsibility.

I believe that all things work together for good--all things.

Even the unpleasant and sometimes painful things which awaken us to deeper spiritual listening and thinking.

Peace is a state of mind. It can be my state of mind if I am willing to let go of fear and human planning and listen for direction.

--Dorothy Emerson,
State Girls' Club Leader,
Maryland.

When you have accomplished your daily task,
Go to sleep in peace;
God is awake.

--Victor Hugo.

PRAYER

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today. It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits. It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive.

HOW TO PRAY

Do not pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for power equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.

--Phillips Brooks.

4-H PRAYERS

Across the Nation, a choice collection of 4-H prayers is now taking shape. These 4-H prayers, like the 4-H songs and 4-H ceremonials, may do much to clarify ideals of right living and those spiritual qualities which characterize men of faith and courage, men of integrity of spirit, men who cherish adherence to truth and righteousness and loyalty to one's best self above personal gain. These are the kind of men - yes, and women, too - whom 4-H Club work, through its work and social and spiritual experiences, seeks to build - that America may be strong in rendering service and inspiration to the peoples of the world in need.

A 4-H PRAYER

Thou Eternal Spirit of Life, in our 4-H Club work, give us the power to be thankful for our many varied experiences. May we rejoice with those who have won recognition and be sharers in the satisfactions that come from doing a worth-while piece of work. Where there have been disappointments, may they carry with them some lesson which will be of future advantage. If there has been any experience we should forget, give us the power and grace to cast it from our minds, but let the aroma of the pleasant carry back to our homes and clubs. We pray Thy favor on our club leaders and associates, on our county extension agents, and may our local helpers, who have given so freely and unselfishly of their time, feel that they have been doing Thy service. As we have freely received, may we be prepared to pass on that which we have gained; to serve our communities as we have been served. May we see Jesus in our everyday contacts and may He become the pattern of our lives. Amen.

--Rev. J. R. Hargreaves.

A TIMELY 4-H PRAYER FOR BETTER LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy blessings; help us to be more worthy members in our own homes and more responsible citizens in our communities; make us mindful of those in need; give us strength to do our full part; relieve the suffering of the world; and grant peace in our time. Amen.

PRAY TO BE OF SERVICE

Be Ashamed To Die Until You Have Won Some Victory for Humanity.

--Horace Mann.

4-H PRAYER AT 4-H EVENT

Our Heavenly Father we rejoice in this hour that brings us together. We thank Thee for a Nation that is interested in her rural people; a Nation that furnishes financial, intellectual, and spiritual protection for her people.

We give hearty thanks for these young men and women who are here today representing the 4-H Clubs of America. We rejoice in their achievements; in their desire to build a better rural America; in their desire to feed a hungry world; in their passion to preserve the democratic American way of life with its freedom as an example for all nations to follow.

Our Heavenly Father, we pray Thy blessings upon all those who are to have a part in this program. Give steadiness of mind and heart that they may bring their very best to these services. Help us, O Father, that we may drink from that which thou hast provided for us.

We rejoice that into this world of ours, with its imperfections and failures, there came One who is better than our best thoughts, and higher than our highest aspirations. In His light we see how far short we are of being what we ought to be. For somehow He speaks to the deepest depth of our being and awakens great longings to be like Him. Grant unto us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, that we too may have the spirit of truth, the spirit of passionate purity, the spirit of sacrificial service which characterized our Lord as He walked among men. For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.

--W. A. Sutton
State Club Leader,
Georgia.

SPIRITUAL TRUTH

Our Father, when we long for life without trials and work, without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. With stout hearts may we see in every calamity an opportunity and not give way to the pessimism that sees in every opportunity a calamity.

--Rev. Peter Marshall.

4-H INVOCATION

Our Father, we beseech Thee to bless this meeting. Open Thou our eyes that we may see Thy bountiful blessings; open our hands that we may better serve Thee; inspire our minds that we may comprehend Thy teachings; give us health and strength to do Thy will; and open our hearts that we may find room for love for all Thy people in every land.

As Thou dost send the rain to cleanse and refresh the earth, and the sunshine to purify and revitalize it, so cleanse our lives and revitalize us with Thy unceasing love.

We ask Thy blessings on all our fellow 4-H Club members, our leaders, our friends, our Government, and those of other lands.

These blessings we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray together saying:

(Repeat the Lord's Prayer.)

Amen.

--George Foster,
State Club Agent, Tenn.

4-H BLESSING

Dear Father, we thank Thee
for food that gives our bodies health,
strength, and endurance; and we pray
that each of us seated here may be
blessed with greater faith, love, and
understanding, the better to do Thy
will and to serve our fellow men.
Amen.

--Florence Taylor.

FAITHFUL TO THE TRUST

Almighty God, Who has made the peace and beauty of the good earth, we thank Thee that Thou hast made us Thy children. Teach us to serve Thee as Thou deserveth; to give and not to count cost; to labor and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Thy will. We ask Thy special blessings on these young men and women from our own and other countries. May their Heads, Hearts, Hands, and Health be dedicated to Thy service in the cause of world peace, understanding, and brotherhood.

Grant that we may always be faithful to the trust that Thou has placed in us. Amen.

--Kenneth Anderson
Associate Director,
National Committee on Boys
and Girls Club Work.

THE BLACKFOOT INDIAN'S PRAYER*

Oh! Maker of all
With the rising of the sun, let me live
as You will.
Give life to all,
Vision to my leaders, protect and guide
them.
Give health and long life to my old
people,
Understanding and love to my young
people,
Give bravery to my enemy, so if defeated
I will not be ashamed.
And let us live this day so that at the
setting of the sun I will know that
I have not lived in vain.

*Used by many 4-H members at 4-H events.

INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE

"Lord, make us instruments of Thy peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

"For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

--St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

PRAY FOR PEACE ETERNAL

When whistles blow and the hands of the clock clap together at 12 o'clock each day, no matter where we are, let us in our hearts pause to say a prayer for peace eternal. Along the busy turmoil of a crowded street, in the quiet of home where the kitchen is sweet with simmering food, along the wide highways where spring is breaking into greenness, let us as young people united, each in our own way, lift our hearts in earnest prayer for Peace!

Together we worked for peace, sorrowed and sought it. Projects we planned toward a day when peace would gladden our hearts and brighten our lives. More than ever, should we now pray for the people who guide the agreements of peace to be given the wisdom to work wisely. Pray for the little children laughing in the sunshine that they may never be called into a horrible war. Work and pray for peace in the world, tomorrow and forever!

Let each meeting be a place where a prayer for peace eternal is given. As we write letters to young people in other lands, as we send food and clothing to countries devastated by the awful war, let us send also in our hearts a prayer for them, and a prayer for the blessings of peace to comfort them and us forever!

--Ellen Barnwell Motz.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the Observance of 4-H Club Sunday.

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

The official documents of American history ... affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

--United States Supreme Court
decision.

A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade.

--Theodore Roosevelt.

The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country.

--William Howard Taft.

Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually.

--Woodrow Wilson.

The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.

--Calvin Coolidge.

Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization.

--Herbert Hoover.

The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed.

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,
For my club, my community, and my country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

MY 4-H HOME

"The 4-H DREAMING SONG"

My home must have a high tree above its open gate,
My home must have a garden where little dreamings wait;
My home must have a wide view of fields and meadow fair,
Of distant hill, of open sky, with sunlight everywhere.

My home must have a friendship with every happy thing,
My home must offer comfort for any sorrowing;
And every heart that enters shall hear its music there,
And find some simple beauty that every life may share.

My home must have its mother, may I grow sweet and wise,
My home must have its father with honor in his eyes;
My home must have its children, God grant the parents grace,
To keep our home, through all the years, a kindly, happy place.

--Fannie Buchanan.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

There's a place in the sun for everyone
To grow ... you should know all about it.
There's love in the hearts of everyone
For you---if you're true, never doubt it,
Hands that will aid in the plans that you've made,
If you're not afraid to trust.
Lands to return all the things that you earn,
If you're wise and you're fair and you're just!

Give me a place in the sun!
With the clear, blue sky above,
On a day that sings of the growing things
And the full, free life I love!
Give me a place in the sun!
With the warm, sweet earth below,
Where the fields are clean with the living green
That my hands have made to grow!
Here's a health to the land that my head and hand
And heart have learned to know!

--Fred Waring.

FINLANDIA - A SONG OF PEACE

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, Thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

--Sibelius.

